



**TO
VOTE
TUESDAY
NOV. 5TH**

"WE KNOW HE (PRESIDENT CLINTON) IS AT BEST OUR OPTION THIS YEAR, NOT OUR ANSWER. THE REAL HOPE FOR TOMORROW IS AMONG US." (N.O.W. press release, Aug. 1996)

National N.O.W. has issued a statement that candidates Dole and Perot are worse candidates than Clinton based on their parties and past records.

As president, Bill Clinton has appointed the first openly lesbian federal judge (Deb Batts in New York) and more than 100 others including Roberta Achtenberg as assistant housing secretary. Clinton also appointed Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Stephen Breyer to the Supreme Court, both crucial votes against Colorado's anti-gay Amendment.

Dole said this about Clinton's appointments: (from the Chicago Tribune,) "Clinton's judges are precisely the ones who are dismantling those guardrails that protect society from the predatory, the violent, the anti-social elements in our midst." Dole also voted against confirming Achtenberg, siding with Jesse Helms (R-NC) who led opposition to her as a "damned lesbian."

The Nation answers G.O.P. propaganda comparing Dole's war record with Clinton, the baby boomer who skirted military service, with this information, "Dole answered the call reluctantly and then held a series of positions that kept him far from combat until the final months of the war." And that Purple Heart war wound? "Self-inflicted" as Dole himself admitted in his 1988 autobiography.

JUSTICE endorses the following candidates for the Nov. 1996 election based upon their summaries of the candidate's support for gay/lesbian issues.

for State Senators: William Alexa (Valpo), Anita Bowser (Mi. City) Kent Adams (Bremen)

for State Representatives: Craig Fry (Mishawaka), B. Patrick Bauer (S.Bend), Thomas Kromkowski (District 7), Michael Dvorak (Granger)

for County Treasurer: Thomas Zakrzewski

For More Information, please call Patti Myers at 219-232-3278

Lavendar Life Magazine announces 3rd Annual Writing Contest. All original short stories and poetry received between Oct. 1, 1996 and Dec. 31, 1996 will automatically be entered into the contest. Prizes will be awarded and winners will be announced in their January 15, 1997 Anniversary issue. Entries should be typed, double-spaced on white paper. A self-addressed stamped envelope should be included to ensure a reply. For more information or to send your entry write to: Lavendar Life, P.O. Box 898 Binghamton, N.Y. 13902-0898. Attention: Pamela K. Fite

LAVENDER MORNING presents

The Annual Harvest Dance

A Chem-free womyn-only event. Child care is provided. Music by JP Productions. This dance is at The People's Church 1758 S. 10th St., Kalamazoo, MI. on Saturday Nov. 9, from 8:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Subscribers \$6.00 Non-subscribers \$8.00

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OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the Dec. newsletter is Nov. 11th. Submissions received after Nov. 11th may not be published in the Dec. newsletter. Mail submissions to *Open Arms*, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or give to any staff member.

Newsletter Meeting Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m. For information 271-0338

Available: FREE...Gay & Lesbian Community Forum software for the Internet. Contact Kaye or Marcia 219-271-0338

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday
7-9 p.m.

For info, write:
LSG

P.O. Box 1612
Mishawaka, IN 46544



Lavender Rhythm Dance

Saturday, Nov. 2, 1996

Pickwick Place

219 N. 4th St., Niles

8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

\$7.00 admission at the door

Womyn only, smoking room inside, BYOB

EVENTS COORDINATORS

Third Friday Out: Sherrill and Lori 684-6913

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Suze219-254-8676 (Beeper)
Kaye & Marcia219-271-0338
Jean219-259-2177
Joy219-259-0906

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier. Thanks.

You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try.

THIRD FRIDAY OUT



Starlite Pizza

2637 Western Ave, South Bend
(Lots of other things on the menu besides pizza)

Friday, Nov. 15

6:30 p.m.

Call Sherrill and/or Lori by Tuesday, Nov. 12th
for reservations at 684-6913.

All suggestions of future places would be
appreciated.

UP AND COMING EVENTS



Olivia Cruises

February, 1997	Tahiti Cruise
March, 1997	Copper Mtn, Colorado
April, 1997	Mexican Carribean
July, 1997	Greek Isles/Turkey
October, 1997	Huatulco, Mexico

call 1-800-631-6277 for information



Notre Dame Women's Volleyball

Nov. 8, Fri.	Rutgers	7:00 p.m.
9, Sat.	George Mason	7:00 p.m.
10, Sun.	Seton Hall	2:00 p.m.

Reality is not what you see, reality is simply what is.



TRICK OR TREAT OR VOTE

by Lee Lynch



Is there a reason our national elections are scheduled right after Halloween?

The parallels are astounding. So many politicians are just overgrown trick or treaters with wide open goody bags and lots of tricks up their sleeves. Costumes? Dark suits and enough makeup on both genders to put a queen to shame.

Campaign parties, Halloween parties - - everyone dresses up. All Hallows Eve is the beginning of a new year for some, election night is the early warning system for the new government year. Skeletons in the closet, headless spokesmen, soulless ghouls seem to be everywhere this season.

Of course I'll vote - - I want decent Supreme Court justices. As Lover's bumper sticker reads, "Democracy Is Not A Spectator Sport." But it is hard to live someplace where losing is a way of life.

People known as Orange County Republicans have been moving to the Northwest for decades. Maybe they're basically good people. Their relocation evokes, at least in diehard liberals, Halloween fears cobwebbed attics and creaking coffins.

Bob Dole doesn't scare me half so much as these local pumpkinheads. They're as sneaky as grave robbers and as brazen as poltergeists. They trick voters: warning of homosexual recruitment, linking teenage pregnancy and sex ed conspiracies, using feminism as proof that the world needs saving and only Real Men can save it.

Once these leaders stir up fears, candidates emerge from shadowy vapors. The first time one runs for mayor people laugh. But these folks are persistent, getting on school boards, into an established party, grabbing publicity. Often, they act like anarchists, battering incumbents year-round, equating the status quo with graft and conspiracy.

You get to know the kids who come to your door year after year. Their fangs look more benign, the princesses grow into their disguises. Name recognition is an insidious process. If a political bloodsucker runs often enough, voters get used to her/him. An eerie transition takes place. One election we wake up and find that the aspiring ghoul is being treated like a legitimate candidate. The advocacy of, say, an AIDS concentration camp, is forgotten.

Oh, and their masks! They disdain immigrant rights, but make sure their close retinue includes immigrants. They fled high concentrations of people of color, but always have a few very visible non-white loyalists. They're anti-tax, but demand services; pro-gun, but anti-crime. And they claim their perverse values to be Christian. Some of their followers don't even let their kids play Halloween because of its pagan roots.

Now that Bo Gritz is too busy getting arrested to run for president again, the pumpkinheads decorate their lawns with Dole/Kemp signs. That makes Dole scary. And speaking of masks, Dole advocated a convention of inclusiveness and moderation (sometimes), but I read in the Times that his wife gives speeches spreading her evangelical faith. That's scary too.

Andrew Ferguson, a former Bush speech writer, was quoted in New York Magazine: "Having a sleazeball for president isn't such a big deal." Hey, guy, I hope you're not in a glass house come Halloween.

Millions of us know exactly how difficult it was coming of age in the jumble of twentieth century thinking: from required worship to enlightenment through drugs, from the A-bomb to anti-war activism. Who among us would look squeaky clean? Despite major disappointments, the President's done an amazing job despite the legacy of corporate power that is the reality of our government.

Dole looks like a guy who'd do anything for the presidency, including rewarding the pumpkinheads who campaign by fear and demonization.

This year store Halloween displays are full of Clinton & Dole masks. Why would anyone want to dress up as either candidate? Who would get more treats?

Election Day is a different matter. We're sophisticated enough to know there aren't many treats in store for anyone these days, but unless we vote, we risk getting tricked--big time.

Lee Lynch and Akia Woods are editors of Off the Rag. Lesbians Writing on Menopause, due out this fall from Victoria publishers. Lee Lynch is the author of ten books and lives in Oregon. Her column "The Amazon Trail" appears in a dozen papers across the country.



TAKE A BITE OUT OF THIS.....

If you need to go to the dentist, I recommend you try going to Dr. Bonni Boone and/or Dr. Susan Cocquyt. They have made a situation that has always been terrible for me into one that is, well, I won't say fun, but I no longer dread.

Their office is in a ranch style home, complete with fire place. The assistants, secretaries, hygienists, and x-ray personnel are all wimin. When I was there they were having fun over a large hair ornament one of the assistants was wearing, they were admitting to neck cramps from leaning over patients, and they were complimenting each other on excellent work. The atmosphere was relaxed, friendly, yet professional.

My teeth are not good. Going to the dentist was always a fate worse than death, so I hardly ever went and when I did, it was to get really bad teeth yanked out. Now, with gaps of missing teeth, Dr. Cocquyt is giving me back a full mouth of teeth. I was in the chair for 3 hours and 10 minutes, but when I left with a temporary bridge my mouth felt better than I could ever remember.

Dr. Cocquyt told me to raise my left hand if anything bothered me. I raised my hand only once and that was when my jaw was getting tired. She made me feel better immediately.

So, I guess no one really likes going to the dentist, but it's important to take care of your teeth and going to Dr. Cocquyt makes the experience a positive one.

**Dr. Bonni Boone, D.D.S.
Dr. Susan Cocquyt, D.D.S.
734 E. Ireland Rd., So Bend
219-299-9300**

(These dentists were found to be Lesbian friendly by our Lesbian Committee of the local N.O.W. Chapter.)

A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.



COURT OF FRIENDS SINGLES

O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to:

**The Court of Friends
P.O.Box 1281
Niles, MI 49120**

(Be sure to include your address.)

Your identity will be assigned an ID number. Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue.) Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil). Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O.Box.

Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. **COME ON SINGLES!** Someone special wants to know you're out there!



*
* True love doesn't have a happy ending; true love
* doesn't have an ending.
*

PET REFUGE IS ASKING EVERYONE TO COLLECT CANS FOR THE ORGANIZATION. TAKE ALUMINUM CANS (Also dog & cat food) TO THEIR BUILDING AT 2300 W. SIXTH ST., (4 blocks east of Ironwood) MISHAWAKA, IND. and place inside the fence. Phone 256-0886 for more info.....





Dear Egeria,

I have a relative who is very difficult to communicate with. She feels attacked easily. Sometimes I get angry about something she does or says and then I feel I can't talk to her about it because of her issue. I find myself needing to release my anger and end up talking to someone else about the incident, but that doesn't let her know what she did so she has the knowledge and choice to improve her behavior. I want a good family relationship with her and don't want to upset her. Do you have any ideas on how I can improve this situation with consideration of her issue?

Thanks

Dear Walking on Eggshells in Silence,

Even though you "release" your anger by talking to others, chances are when you really get furious at this lady, it all may hit the fan. (A certain door opener to the All American Family Apocalypse) A favorite saying of mine (author unknown) is, "Words flow like raindrops, but thoughts are lost in a cloudburst". Everything that you believe was discarded in your release technique is stored in your memory file, so when the thunder sounds you may open up the store with both guns firing, such as, "Back in 1082, 1987 and 1993 you did.....and that was really..... Then in August you said.....and you are really a **!# That's when you'll possibly blow and blow until the tidy house of cards you've built will come tumbling down, and those eggshells are going to slit some tidy wounds on the issue ladies.

Note, I said ladies! The silent lamb is afraid of conflict and losing. Instead of giving your relative your permission to resolve her issues, you have tried to avoid them because of your issues. I'm glad you are seeking remedies for all.

Yes, communication is the key to a stronger and closer relationship with all people worthy of the effort.

So first of all when you feel angry, go cool off. It's O.K. to release some of it by talking to a good listener, but feedback will be based on the information you have provided. Will that feedback be impartial? Collect your thoughts and feelings, and avoid that impulsive cloudburst. Remember your timing to communicate may not be comfortable with her timing.

I'd approach her calmly (after you've cooled off) with a statement similar to "When you have some time, I need to speak with you. Please, tell me when that time will be available."

Common rules to expressing anger are.... avoid the "you are" and the temptation to attack with any nasty, angry negativity's. Take total responsibility for your needs and feelings. **NO ONE MAKES YOU FEEL ANYTHING!** Your reaction is your own! Certain behaviors from other people may trigger that reaction, but that is your problem to discover why. We are all human and imperfect. Consequently, I'd open the conversation with the previous two sentences. Try, "We are all human and imperfect, and for some unknown reason to me, certain comments and or behaviors from other people tend to trigger angry feelings within me. This reaction can occur within my self, regardless to who the other person is, when that feeling occurs, I need to discuss it with the other person. On Friday (or when ever it was) I felt that anger when you dropped the cement block on my foot (or whatever she said or did). I need to discuss my feelings and pain about that incident with you, but I do not know how to communicate it to you and avoid a possible conflict. I don't want you to feel attacked. How can we discuss this type of problem resolve it and possibly avoid it in the future?" (Remember, ALL anger includes pain).

If she hesitates to respond, offer her some time to think about it, and for her to get back to you, later (at a time comfortable to both). She may want to write an answer to you, as she too may fear conflict. If so, let her, and even suggest it as an alternative.

Another good question is "If human conflicts occur in the future, between us, what would be the best approach or way for me to express it to you without hurting your feelings?" Ask her to write her answer to you on this question. (Why? Our memory banks tend to remember what we see better than what we say, and the written words can be saved for future references.)

Some people may say this effort is care-taking, but I completely disagree. Saying nothing is care-taking. With this effort you peacefully open the door to future, improved communication, acquire greater knowledge, understanding and mutual respect, plus a potential closer relationship with the people of your choice.

Try it, practice it, live it and the rewards will be seen.

Love, Egeria

.....Egeria (*woman advisor*) will address your concerns. You will remain anonymous.

Egeria

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IN THE NEWS

from TV Guide.....Ellen DeGeneres' character on ABC's "ELLEN" may come out as a lesbian this season. The series producers and star are lobbying for the character to come out of the closet. No prime-time network series has ever had a homosexual as its central character. DeGeneres' own sexual orientation has been the subject of speculation in and out of the gay community. She has refused to discuss the issue.

from the S. Bend Tribune.....President Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military survived its first Supreme Court test on October 21, as the court rejected the appeal of a former Navy officer dismissed for declaring his homosexuality.

*** IBM has become the nation's largest company to extend health benefits to the partners of its gay workers.

Other companies with similar policies include, American Express, Walt Disney Co., Microsoft Corp., Time Warner Inc., Levi Strauss and Apple Computer.

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*Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to
the Michiana lesbian community.*

If you would like to wish someone a happy birthday, via the calendar on the back page, send us their first name and initial of the last name and their birth date. We will print as many as we have room for.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising in Open Arms runs on a calendar year basis and our advertisers will be receiving renewal notices soon. Since our rates are so low (\$10 per year, or more if you can afford it, for a business-card size ad) we don't pro-rate the fee on a less than 6 month basis. If you submit your ad between January and June, the full year rate will apply; between July and December the rate will be half the yearly rate.



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November

1996

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					1  N.D. vs OHIO ST. 7:30 p.m.	2 LAVENDER RHYTHM DANCE 8pm-1am Niles, Mich. 616-684-7362
3 N.D. vs VIL-LANOVA 1:00 p.m.   11th Gloria Julie	4 MOVIE "Hide & Seek" ND Snite Museum, For Info: Jill 631-7167	5  VOTE!!	6 N.O.W. Meeting (Library) 7:00 p.m. Happy Anniversary to LIN & DIANNE 	7	8 In Chicago: 16th Lesbian & Gay Int. Film Festival Runs thru the 17th Info: 312-384-5533	9  ND vs Lithuania 1pm MMCH, Chicago, Diedre McCalla, singer-guitarist 312-477-8362
10 MEETING OPEN ARMS 6:30 p.m.	11  Happy Birthday NANCY N.	12  ND vs Dutch Nat. Team 7:00 p.m.	13	14	15  ND vs Kent (WNIT 1st Round) 4:00 pm	16 SUZANNE WESTEN-HOEFER (1 show only) 317-923-8550 PULSATIONS Dance Band MMCH
17	18	19	20	21 SUZE's 50th 	22 Birthday Wishes to CAROL 	23 "THREE OF HEARTS" Madam Walker Theater 317-637-2906 Indy
24 P-FLAG 2-4 p.m. Christ the King Lutheran Church S. Bend	25	26	27	28  THANKSGIVING	29	30